

# Marine plains and tidal flats



<b>Description</b>	Flat land in, and adjacent to, mangrove and salt couch areas.
<b>Landform</b>	Marine plains and tidal flats.
<b>Woody vegetation</b>	Mangrove associations, melaleuca/tea tree.
<b>Expected pasture composition</b>	<i>Originally sparse or absent native pasture community.</i> <i>* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.</i>
Preferred	Salt water couch*, marine couch, water couch.
Intermediate	
Non-preferred	
Common forbs	Samphire (preferred), fringe rush (intermediate), sedges (non-preferred).
<b>Suitable sown pastures</b>	Very limited options for sown pasture.
<b>Introduced weeds</b>	Para grass, hymenachne.
<b>Soil</b>	Very deep cracking and non-cracking clays. The dominant soil types include hydrosols, vertosols and sodosols.
Description	<b>Surface:</b> Firm; <b>Surface texture:</b> Light to medium clay; <b>Subsoil texture:</b> Medium to heavy clay.
Rooting depth	Moderate (45 cm) for adapted plants.
Fertility	Moderate to high total nitrogen, moderate to high phosphorous.
Salinity	Moderate to very high.
Sodicity	Moderate to very high.

<b>pH</b>	Very strongly acid to alkaline.
<b>Utilisation</b>	30%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Growing
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunistic grazing in association with less sensitive land types.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There may be limitations to grazing on grazing leases below high tide mark.</li> <li>• These soils are poorly drained and have water logged subsoils.</li> <li>• Low infiltration rates except when very dry.</li> <li>• Frequently flooded.</li> <li>• Acid sulphate soils underlay most of these areas. Professional advice should be sought prior to any excavation work in these areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mangroves are a protected plant species.</li> <li>• Waterbirds are the most conspicuous component of the fauna of marine plains and tidal flats. These areas provide abundant food in the dense cover, and in the more open areas, for most of the major waterbird groups.</li> <li>• A key strategy for grazing management is for fencing that enables wetlands to be excluded from grazing at strategic times, particularly when their edges are soft and liable to deep plugging and when wetland plants have not yet completed the seeding stage.</li> <li>• Where exotic pasture grasses, such as para grass and hymenachne have become established, an appropriate level of grazing pressure on these grasses will be necessary to ensure they do not spread and overrun the area to the exclusion of native plants.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.1.4.